Contents: Pride, Poetry, News, Movie Reviews

NORTH Bi NORTHWEST

Newsletter of the Seattle Bisexual Women's Network, a member project of Gay Community Social Services

June/July 1996 $2.50 VOLUME 9, NUMBER 3

Pride

by Sydne

"One, two, three, four
This is what we're fighting for
Our belief in the constitution
Recognition, same sex union
Equal pay and a place to stay
Even though you say you're gay ..."

A small group of gay-rights activists is chanting as they make a video to be broadcast on local Public Access television. Unfortunately, most of those that would see their presentation are already in agreement with their views. So perhaps rather than opening or changing minds, their efforts will help motivate those that are otherwise complacent, moving them to speak out and play a part in the struggle for gay rights.

June 30 I will march in my first gay pride parade. Contrary to the very title of the event, I will not be participating because I'm proud to be queer, because although I am glad I'm bisexual, I don't think it's anything to be especially proud of. However, far more than a simple lifestyle choice, my bisexuality, like being gregarious with a passion for adventure, is an integral part of who I am.

It''s been two years since I realized I was bi, but I've only been out for six months. My coming out coincided with my move from a conservative Midwestern town to the much more progressive west coast. It took longer, however, to come out to my family and close friends, a more difficult thing to do.

With strangers it was easy. It's often much easier to be open and honest with people from the beginning than to divulge a secret you've been deliberately keeping from them. Besides, why waste time befriending people who are homophobic?

The decision to come out is very personal and usually very difficult to act on. Besides anticipated negative reactions from family members, friends, co-workers and neighbors, once you're out and branded with the "queer" label you become instantly categorized, then ostracized. You become one of "them."

As a friend pointed out to me, our culture is organized so opposites are regarded as an inherent part of its foundation--white and nonwhite, male and female, straight and queer. (Have a baby and I'll bet $100 the question first asked is whether it's a boy or a girl.) And we tend to place a false amount of importance on the groups into which one falls.

Often the very identity of dominant and activist groups in our society is due to insistence on such polar opposites. This

Continued on Page 10

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North Bi Northwest is the bimonthly newsletter of the Seattle Bisexual Women's Network. It is produced by women and is feminist in content. We feature news and events pertinent to the bisexual community, plus creative writing, artwork, and an advice column.

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We welcome submissions from women and men that concern feminism, politics, sexuality, or anything of interest to bisexual women. Help define our culture! Share your histories, anger, pleasure, energy. Send us your essays, poetry, photographs, drawings, book reviews, short stories, interviews, media reports, rants, cartoons, erotica, journals, theory, conversations and letters. You're important to us and what you have to say is important to everyone.

We accept submissions on disk with hard copy (PC), typed, legibly handwritten or by E-mail (nbinw@aol.com). If you send us something to print, you get a free issue; send six and get a year's subscription! Let us know what pseudonym you use, if you do not want to publish under your everyday name.

Views expressed in *North by Northwest* are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily represent the views of SBWN. Inclusion in this publication does not indicate author's sexual orientation.

Deadline for submissions to the next issue: July 1, 1996
North Bi Northwest is printed on bi paper! (50% recycled)

SBWN Statement of Purpose

We are a group of women from diverse backgrounds working to create a feminist bisexual support network. We promote, in both the heterosexual world and in the lesbian/gay community, the understanding and acceptance of bisexuality as one of many valid sexual identities.

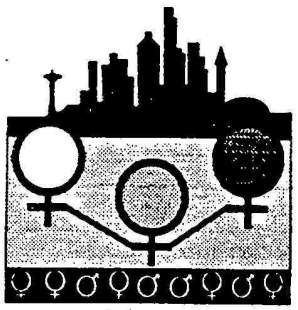
We regard ourselves as part of the community united against heterosexism and homophobia. We are dedicated to the right of all people to define their own sexuality, free from any social, political, or economic coercion. The discriminations we face based on our gender and our sexuality are not the only forms of oppression. We recognize that oppression is nonhierarchical and that none of us is free until all of us are free. We have invested ourselves in the feminist struggle to transform our culture into one free of all forms of bigotry, hatred, and exploitation.

We seek to provide a safe place for women to explore all aspects of their sexual orientation and identity. All women are welcome to attend SBWN activities. We are exclusively a women's group in order to create a safe space for women's expression and leadership. We come together to affirm ourselves and our choices.

North Bi Northwest

Editorial Team:
Julie Aguilar, Lizabeth Coller, Kellie Trujillo, Kimberly O'Neal, and other volunteers

Distribution:
Betttykay, Denise Ottoson, and volunteers
Seattle Bisexual Women's Network



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SBWN can always use volunteers to help with a variety of tasks. Give us a call or talk to a facilitator at a meeting.

North Bi Northwest is available by subscription (see above) or at area bookstores and newstands, including: in Seattle, **Red and Black Books, Beyond the Closet, Bailey Coy Books, Fremont Place Book Company,** and **Toys in Babeland.**

North Bi Northwest is a publication of the Seattle Bisexual Women's Network, a member project of Gay Community Social Services, PO Box 2228, Seattle, WA 98122-0228. *(Not for correspondence with* SBWN *or North Bi Northwest).*

From the

Editor...

SBWN to have a homepage

by Lizabeth Coller

I'm working on doing a WEB page for SBWN and North Bi Northwest. Emerald on Ramp (EOR), a local Internet provider, gives free space to non-profits, so I expect to take advantage of that. I plan on having all sorts of information about SBWN on this page; our statement of purpose, meeting information, how to contact us, and how to subscribe to the newsletter or become a member of SBWN. I won't include the address of where we meet as it's a security issue.

As for the newsletter, we can't put the entire archive on-line; it would be huge, and some things are just not interesting. Would anyone want to know about our meeting schedule in June 1988?
Putting art and photos on-line takes a lot of work and a lot of memory. So I plan to put mostly text on the page, such as articles on feminism and bisexuality, some poems, book reviews, and who knows what else. Everything will be linked to the index and to categories such as "Book Reviews" and "Poetry." Let me know what your favorites are.

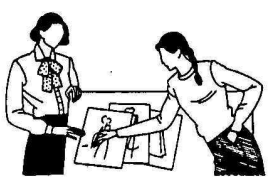
I've got the general layout sketched out, and the beginning of a list of things I'd like to see on-line. Now I need some help.

The biggest task is a logo or masthead. We have a small SBWN logo of sorts - see page 2 of the newsletter. But I want something more exciting, more eye-catching. Any ideas? All suggestions will be discussed. The winning logo will get the designer a free 1-year subscription.

I also need to get permission from the authors to put their work on line; I view it as a copyright thing, and a courtesy. Some of you will hear from me; but some people were published under pseudonyms, and I don't know who they are in real life. If you're one of these, let me know. If you published under one name, and don't want the same name splattered all over the WEB, we can give you a new name.

I need help with data entry. The recent issues are on floppy, and I can just transfer the files to text. But the older issues, from the beginning to about 1993, are not on floppy. Anyone who can spend a couple hours just typing away, call me! I can convert either PC or Mac. I'll give you a typed hardcopy - it's easy to type from. And if you don't have a computer, we can talk about using one of mine.

This is a really big task, but I think we can have a great looking homepage that will get a great response, and get us new subscriptions for the newsletter. It will do a lot for the visibility of bisexuals in general, and SBWN in particular.



Join the Seattle Bisexual Women's Network and become a card-carrying bisexual!

Memberships are $10-50 a year on a sliding scale, and are open to women everywhere. Members are entitled to discounts on events and purchases. See mail-in form on previous page.

Volunteers Needed!

It is a great time to offer your help to your community. We have several volunteer positions (as all our positions are) which need to be filled so we can continue to service the community at large. The hours required vary. But most positions take very little time - especially when several people work!

Phones: We desperately need people to check the answering service messages and return or relay calls as needed. This job works best when several people take turns. Making long distance calls is not required. Call Brenda or the phone line to volunteer.

Newsletter: We also need an individual (or individuals) who will deliver the newsletters to participating area newstands and bookstores. Accounts are set up, but some maintaining is needed. This job requires a few hours every other month. Call the phone line or e-mail us if you are interested.

Business: Our current (very hard working) volunteer who handles business matters for SBWN has asked for a volunteer to take over her duties. This is a crucial position which does require some accounting know-how. If you love numbers and have a couple extra hours - please call!

Newsy Bits & Organizations

Get Ready for Care to Dance 1996

Care to Dance, the Chicken Soup Brigade's annual dance-a-thon fundraiser, will rock the Washington State Convention Center on Saturday, June 29, from 6 PM to midnight.

Last year, more than 1,800 people danced the night away, raising more than $360,000 for the organization, which provides fresh meals and groceries, in-home chore help, and transportation for people living with AIDS.

Like last year, both individuals and teams from companies in the area are asked to raise a minimum of $100 in pledges to enter the party. Incentive prizes are awarded to dancers who raise more money. And the team that raises the most money will have its photo taken with one of the featured performers.

Now is the time to put your dance team together! To sign up as a team leader, call (206) 322-CARE. Individual dancers are encouraged to watch for registration forms and pledge cards at various establishments in the Seattle area, including the Chicken Soup Brigade's newest thrift store location, which opens June 1 in the Capitol Hill areas at 1508 11th Avenue (across from REI, between Pike and Pine Streets).

Sign Up for U.W Women's Center Summer Events

The U.W. Women's Center is holding a series of summer arts, sustainable living, travel, and health workshops for Seattle area women the last week in June. The workshops include: "Celtic Circles: Weaving Your Healing Life Line," featuring Anne Kinkaid, developer of Creative Encounter Workshops, on June 24; "Destination Vietnam" coordinated by Beth Whitman of Solo Traveler, on June 25; "Ideas in Ecofeminism," lead by Lyanda Haupt, on June 26; and "Women Artists of the Northwest," facilitated by Susan Olds of Cornish College, on June 27.

All four workshops will be held from 7 to 9 PM on the U.W. Seattle campus. The course fees range from $15-20 per person. For more information, call (206) 685-1090.

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North Bi Northwest welcomes advertising from bi-friendly businesses, individuals, organizations and services. Our advertising rates are as follows:

Business card size: $10/issue
Half page: $40/issue
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2 consecutive issues: 15% discount
3 consecutive issues: 30% discount

For more information call (206)517-7767 & leave a message or e-mail: nbinw@aol.com.

Third Annual BiNet Oregon Bi-Retreat

by *Lizabeth*

BiNet Oregon has reserved American Ridge, down on the southeast corner of Mt. Rainier, for June 10-13. There are 40 private acres, with 30 pit toilets, and a cabin, which no one sleeps in because of mice. There is plenty of space for tents or campers.

There will be some workshops, discussion groups, group meals, and lots of time to do what you want to. I went last year, and had a great time. I was able to relax away from phones and tv's.

Call me for more information and directions. Or call the Oregon Bi-line at 503-299-4764, or Kurt Geist at 503-622-5401 or 503-703-8013 for voice mail.

Next issue: Back to School: What is it like to be bisexual and a student? Tell us your experience.

Submissions

If you've never been published here, you may not think of North Bi Northwest as your publication, but if you're here, it really is. Even if you don't think of yourself as a writer, we'd like to have your input; this is an SBWN project, not a mainstream magazine. Please help us editors/publishers out. We need input to keep going; we're now in our ninth year!

If you send us something to print, you get a free issue; send us six and get a year's subscription! Let us know what pseudonym you use, if you do not want to publish under your everyday name. Also, include a brief biography with each submission. Please let us know if you allow your submission to be placed on our home page on the internet.

We welcome fiction, poetry, non-fiction and art. And remember, the Answer Amazons are looking for a new, tough topic to tackle!

The deadline for the next issue is Monday, July 1. Entries should be sent to our PO Box, handed to a newsletter production member at a meeting, or sent by E-mail to nbinw@aol.com. If your submission is not in the following issue, keep looking - we will use submissions as space and content allows.

Pride Day!

Seattle Pride Day is on Sunday, June 30. SBWN will be marching and will have a table at the park. We are looking for volunteers to march with the group - make us look strong! We also need people to donate 1-2 hours at the table.

This is a great excuse to come out and to see others in the community. Not to mention, its a lot of fun! Please call the phone line and leave us your name and number.

If volunteering is not for you - then stop by our table. We will be offering a newsletter special! Subscribe to the newsletter and receive TWO bisexual buttons! We have two styles to chose from. We will also have other bisexual pride items available. Bring your pocketbook, show your pride and support SBWN!

Attend This Summer's Bi-Friendly Native American Gathering

Coming up in the Seattle area later this summer is the 1996 International Two-Spirit Gathering, which will focus on Native American gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered people's issues. The conference, which is set for sometime in August, will be titled "Marginalized From the Native American Cultures: Diverse Genders and Sexualities." Breakout discussions are expected to focus on LGBT NativeAmerican youth issues.

For more information, write to Wesley Thomas in care of Two-Spirit Gathering, P.O. Box 85654, Seattle, WA, 98145-1654. You can also call him at (206) 525-1585 or send e-mail to wthomas@u.washington.edu.

The Latest from the Front Lines of the BI Movement

by Sheri

On March 14-17 in Portland, Oregon the Association for Women in Psychology (AWP) held its 21st Annual Feminist Psychology Conference: Womanspan - Generating Bridges. Their motto is "Womanspan: Generating bridges across community, throughout humanity and within ages as keeper, carrier, and creator of culture." The program was absolutely filled with Bi topics, Bi meetings, Bi lectures and of course Bi women from all over the country. It was - exciting!

Every year hundreds of women in psychology and related fields gather to network, share research and build community. The AWP conferences have always led the way in discussing and promoting research of Lesbian issues. However, until three years ago there was disappointingly little attention paid to bisexuality. Even though, many psychologists and social workers etc. identified as Bi. The research and community just weren't there. The first mention of bisexuality occurred in 1991 when a presentation was given titled "Perceptions of Bisexual Women by the Lesbian and Heterosexual Communities." Thus, began the dialogue. In 1993 the Bisexual and Sexual Diversity Caucus was born and has been growing ever since.

Being new to psychology, I had never attended a psychology conference of any sort. Also, having only come out in my professional life when I began my doctoral program last Fall, I had never before mixed my Queer activities with my professional. Naturally I approached this conference and the Caucus social Thursday night with mixed excitement and trepidation. Imagine my surprise as the room slowly filled and there were not five or 10 but 25 or 35 women there building a BI professional community! (Though I have been warned not to expect such a warm and supportive atmosphere from any other psych conferences!)

Equally exciting was the number of papers being presented on bisexuality. Friday morning I attended an outstanding panel paper presentation on Lesbian and Bisexual issues. Other presentations that weekend included: Triple Threat - on being an older disabled bisexual woman; Sex and Bisexuality; But You Don't Seem Bisexual (an empowering panel where several Bi-identified women shared their stories); Bisexuality and Treatment Issues. It was invigorating to find so many people actually setting out to research "my herstory!"

I would like to leave you with a few references of upcoming books and research to keep an eye out for: Sari Dworkin (CSU Fresno) is currently doing some exciting research on how women develop a bisexual identity and the role that these women play in Lesbian feminist psychology. Watch for research papers by her soon and eventually a book. (It may include interviews with a beloved previous editor of this newsletter). Also, FINALLY, a book on bisexuality is coming out designed for women's studies courses! Sage Publications will publish it in August, edited by Beth Firestein (another of the many wonderful women I met at the conference). The book is titled "BISEXUALITY: The Psychology and Politics of an Invisible Minority."

It was an incredible weekend that gave me great hope for the future of Bisexual Psychology and provided researched support for bisexuality as a valid identity construct.

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Celebrating the Body Electric for Women

by Kellie

This workshop is a lively journey to one's own erotic self, which this participant would recommend to all women who are interested in exploring their erotic energy. "The workshop is a full two and a half day experience that hones and acknowledges erotic energy as a primary life force, a source of creativity and deep connection to self. The workshop is designed to allow women to feel at home in their bodies, to connect with all of whom they are and in the process to experience erotic energy as playful, sacred, energizing, and transformative."

This workshop is a hands-on experience that will invite you to get out of your head and into your body. The women who went through the workshop with me expressed that although we all had very different and unique experiences, as we went through the process we all valued the journey. The women who put the workshop on were all warm, open and genuinely caring spirits - especially Kate, the Seattle Coordinator. She went beyond the call of duty to meet all of our very special needs.

There are some upcoming dates for this workshop: June 14-16 and October 4-6 in Vancouver, B.C.. Then it's back to Seattle on October 18-20. If you are interested, please call Kate at (206) 233-1848 for a flyer and enrollment information. Also, keep your eyes on the SBWN meeting topics, because Kate will be coming back by popular demand to lead a meeting in September.

Dancing in the Tulips

The April SBWN social was a beautiful day of riding buses, traveling between tulip farms and shopping. Thanks Aileen for your great organizing skills! We started the day out at the discount mall in Mt. Vernon and found plenty of chocolate to last the day. Then we rode a couple buses, and went to the heart of tulip land. The first tulip field filled the bus with oohs and aahs!

After stopping for some picture posing and shopping at the Kodak field, we found our way back and boarded another bus to LaConner - we wanted food! In LaConner we spent several hours eating, shopping, walking, shopping, eating . . .

We then found our way back to Mt. Vernon with the help of some friendly drivers and event coordinators. Hey, next year let's try bikes?

COMING OCTOBER 11: THE BISEXUAL LOGO T-SHIRT! AVAILABLE IN TWO COLORS: BLACK AND HEATHER GREY. SIZES ARE LARGE, X-LARGE, AND OVER-SIZE (APPROZIMATELY 4X-LARGE). PRICED AT $12 EACH, SBWN MEMBWERS MAY BI THE SHIRTS FOR ONLY $10 (A 15% SAVINGS, WE TOLD YOU MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS PRIVILEGES!)

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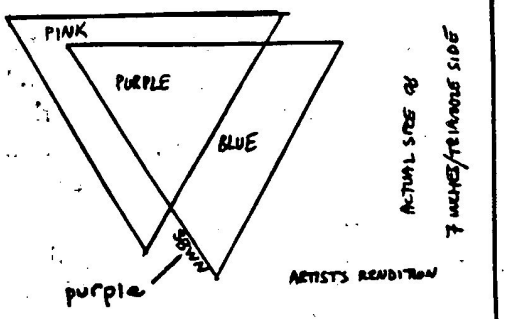

WEAR OUR COLORS WITH BISEXUAL PRIDE!

The Jane Austen Mania - What's it About?

by Anna Powell

There has been a recent glut of movies made from Jane Austen's writing. Sense and Sensibility is a big-name mainstream film, while Persuasion starred no one known to Americans. Pride and Prejudice is a BBC production, showing on A&E on Cable TV. Clueless is the uncredited remake of Emma, in the guise of a Hollywood teen movie. A film version of Emma, purported to be closer to the original, is coming.

Briefly, in no particular order:

Sense and Sensibility:

Elinor and Marianne's father dies, leaving everything to his son from his first marriage. While the son does support the girls and their mother, the allowance is very small; i.e., the girls have no dowries. Elinor, who has much 'sense', falls in love with Edward Ferrars, the elder son of a prominent, wealthy family. What she doesn't know is he has promised himself to another woman, Lucy Steele, who has become Elinor's friend. Elinor shows her 'sense' by keeping her disappointment to herself.

When Lucy discloses her engagement to Edward, he is disinherited, and she decides to marry his brother instead, who now has all the money. Edward returns to Elinor, and there is a happy ending, in a marriage.

Marianne, (who represents sensibility), is very emotional about love, believing in love at first sight and all the romantic things that go with it. She meets John Willoughby, and is literally swept off her feet by him. He is very gallant, charming, and extremely beautiful. In the background is Colonel Brandon, and while he is very attentive to Marianne, he is not nearly so romantic.

Of course, Willoughby dumps Marianne and she almost dies. Suddenly Col. Brandon is back in good standing. Another marriage and happy ending.

Pride and Prejudice:

This story also centers on two sisters, though only one has a quality from the title. Elizabeth and Jane Bennet are the older of five daughters, again with no dowries. The Bennets' meet Mr. Darcy and Mr. Bingley at a dance, where Mr. Darcy insults Elizabeth by saying she is "not handsome enough to tempt me." Elizabeth overhears this, and is prejudiced against him. Lots of misunderstandings and family messes later, Mr. Darcy has a very different view of Elizabeth, but his pride still gets in his way. It is after this that Elizabeth comes to realize the error in her judgement of him. Eventually both come around, and marriage is the happy ending.

Jane and Mr. Bingley get along well, and seem well suited for each other. But Mr. Darcy and other family get in the way, with the main issue being Jane's 'lower' status. Jane stoically acceptsbeing dumped, but in the end, another marriage is the path to a happy ending.

Persuasion:

At 27, Anne Elliot is the oldest heroine in any Austen novel. She has a very realistic view of the world, and her part in it. Her father is a spendthrift, and has put his family in tight financial straits.

Anne still regrets refusing the proposal of a young naval officer, Frederick Wentworth, on the advice of a status-conscious family friend. Eight years later Captain Wentworth has returned, unforgiving, and looking for a

new candidate. He has many women to entertain him but his first choice, Louisa Musgrove, is injured in an accident, and during her convalescence becomes engaged to another man. But now Anne has her own suitor, her cousin William Elliot. But all is not as it seems, of course. Eventually, everything is explained, and the last scene shows Anne onboard Captain Wentworth's ship. Another marriage, and another happy ending.

Emma:

Cher Horowitz (the Emma Woodhouse character), is the only child of a rich lawyer (remember, this story has been updated to 1995 Beverly Hills.) Believing herself a shrewd judge of the human heart, Cher believes she is above love. She spends her time matchmaking for her friends, with varying degrees of success.

She convinces herself she doesn't care for her stepbrother Josh (Mr. Knightley's character) and fixes him up with a friend of hers. Only after the relationship might be going well does she realize she is in love with Josh, and now is heartbroken. As in all Austen novels, there is a happy ending. In the movie, since Cher is 15 or 16, there is no marriage (yet!).

All the above women have been raised in genteel middle class English families, during the early 1800's. Their families are pretty dysfunctional (sorry, a 1990's term); the parents are negligent, overindulgent, neurotic, or not actually present. But these women still manage to muddle their way through, and eventually make good decisions.

The women who initially exhibit an extreme of a behavior, such as Marianne with her sensibility, or Elizabeth with her prejudice, do moderate that behavior; Marianne becomes more reasonable and considerate, while Elizabeth sees Darcy in a different light. Several women must overcome self-delusion before their futures are assured.

I found it interesting that the main women, Elizabeth, Elinor, Anne, and Cher (Emma) have no one to confide in. Due to the circumstances in their lives, they are unable to let anyone else know what is happening, and how the events are affecting them. Each woman must decide on her own: Elinor cannot tell Marianne that Edward is promised to another, because she has pledged her silence to Lucy. Elizabeth cannot tell Jane about the role Darcy played in fixing the familyscandal, because he has not given his permission to let others know.

Austen's novels have the idea that decency, civility and common sense will be rewarded, simply because they lead to warm and lasting relationships and lives free of turmoil, dissatisfaction and debt. Austen ventures that true love arises from deep mutual respect rather than an instantaneous seizure of sexual passion.

I found the role marriage takes in each story to be a real problem; every happy ending is actually a wedding. The seeking of love, or of a reasonable partner, if love is not available, seems to be the main purpose of these women's lives. However, Jane Austen herself never married, 'putting her cap on' at thirty. So what is the big deal?

Two hundred years ago, women did not have property or money. Women were born poor, and stayed poor their whole lives. If they were lucky enough to be born into a family with money, they may be taken care of. But since they could not legally inherit, they would be living off a brother, brother-in-law, or uncle.

As a member of the middle-class, there was no work available for women. The idea of supporting yourself did not exist then. If a woman ran away from her family, besides being a major scandal, there were few trades for her to learn: sewing, chimney sweep, butcher, or prostitution.

However, a woman could marry - if she could afford to! A woman was expected to have a dowry to give to the man to offset her keep (since children belonged to the husband, the woman did not need to provide for them). Figures show only about 30% of women married during this time. It seems the women in Austen's novels needed their dowries eliminated by the great love each man had for his intended. Love had worth, I guess, even if a woman didn't.

The movies are all enjoyable entertainment. And things make some sense when put in historical context. But if you want a feminist view of the world, don't bother looking here.

Continued from Page 1

fosters animosity and can lead to the irrational fear that some other group is threatening or out to take over. Because of such an atmosphere, coming out is a catch-22 situation. Queers cannot fight for gay rights unless they're out of the closet, yet many feel they can't come out unless they have certain rights.

Just what are gay rights? Queers say they're equal rights; those opposed say we want special rights. Are gay rights special rights? I think so. At base, gay rights are rights of free speech, which are indeed special. They are rights to come out of the closet, to be visible and to have a voice, and to not be discriminated against for doing so. Because civil rights should be all-
inclusive, rather than a controversy, gay rights should be seen as a natural extension of our current civil rights.

Though many pretend or even believe it doesn't exist, discrimination against queers is obvious, from unfairness in the workplace to unbridled prejudice to hate crimes. It's very goal isto keep us in the closet, which, for those who think we queers benefit from it, is not a facet of the queer community. It is an artifact of straight culture, in particular of the straight culture whose desire it is to oppress queers, and a very effective one at that. The function of the closet is to deprive us a place in public space, in effect, to render us invisible and silent.

Likewise, "Don't ask, don't tell" is a policy that mirrors the way most members of society treat queers. A society whose attitudes are often one of, "I don't care what you are or what you do, I just don't want to know about it." They pretend that society readily accepts queers, just so long as no one knows we're queer. But those same people who say they don't want to know often feel betrayed that you kept this from them, or they wish they'd known earlier so they could have dissed you sooner.

"Don't ask, don't tell" does little more than enforce the effects of the closet by not allowing us to be fully accepted for whom we are, and it is therefore as discriminatory as having no policy at all. Society pretends it doesn't matter. However, if it really didn't matter, then why the closet? Why shouldn't we be allowed to not be mistaken for who we're not?

Our freedom of speech includes freedom to be yourself and to express yourself in whatever manner you choose. There is a great deal more to coming out than just saying you're queer. It involves all aspects of the way we express ourselves--behavior, mannerisms, content and style of speech. Philosopher John Stuart Mill argued that a free society is not one that only *allows* freedom of individuality, but one that actually *encourages* it. Being bi, I've no problem passing. But queers don't want to pass for straight. We want to just be ourselves.

Because the closet is the main mechanism of oppression for queers, coming out becomes an instrument of liberation, not only for the individual, but for all queers. When queers remain in the closet, they are accepted. When they come out, many straight members of society often tolerate them. But tolerance is not good enough where acceptance should be the rule.

I would challenge all queers to come out of the closet this pride day and lock the doors behind them, so that no other queer is forced to come out ever again. Coming out is liberating, but it is much more liberating to be honest about whom you are from the beginning.

Many of us take civil rights for granted. Those blacks that have struggled for equality and an end to discrimination based on race do not. But being directly involved in a rights movement is difficult, even for those who are suffering from the unjustness of the lack of such rights, when such actions are almost guaranteed to meet direct, immediate, harsh and even violent opposition.

But the more society believes and takes a misconception for granted, (stereotypes, lifestyle choice, risky behavior, non-monogamy, pedofiles, perversion) the more important disproving that fallacy is. The way to do this is through education, and the fastest way to educate many people is by being out, so they can see for themselves that queers are a misunderstood lot. Queers' coming out will help to advance society as a whole, and this, in turn, will be better for every queer individually.

With the closet doors open for all queers to come out, come out wherever you are, pride day is the prime opportunity for queers to perform a great duty, a duty not just than to ourselves, but also to society. Call it an imperfect moral duty. Call it a social obligation. Just as every individual has the duty to inform a bigot that her racial jokes are not funny, but are instead ignorant and harmful stereotypes that you will not tolerate, we pay the price of coming out to make our society a better place.

We know that our sexuality is dynamic and constantly changing. Imagine, my fellow queers, if you never had to come out after realizing that you weren't who everyone thought youwere. If you could just *be* out as you continue to figure out who you are. If you had been encouraged to explore your sexuality from puberty freely and openly, or even before. Unfortunately, it is too late for us, but it is possible for future generations.

Though we have hardly come far enough, where would we be had Rosa Parks not refused to give up her seat on the bus? Likewise, what if 20 Rosa Parks had been on every bus in every city in America that day? There were. They just didn't know what they could do.

Queers know.

Women's Historical Events of June & July

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June is named for Juno, the goddess of women and marriage.

Event 06-01-1660, Mary Dyer was hanged in Boston for being a unrepentant Quaker.

B. 06-02-1861, Helen Herron, decided in a visit to White House at 17 she wanted to be the First Lady. Studious and ambitious, she married William Howard Taft and prodded him into prominence.

Event 06-03-1976, US Coast Guard Lieutenant Beverly Kelley became the first woman to graduate from the Coast Guard Officer Candidate School. In 1979 she was appointed commander of the cutter *Cape Newagen* out of Hawaii.

Event 06-04-1648: Margaret Jones of Charlestown was the first woman in Massachusetts to be executed for being a witch...for dispensing herbs for healing.

On June 5, 1832 Hawaii's foremost feminist, Kaahumanu, died. She worked with her husband to unite all the islands and then broke down many of the native religions barriers against women and convinced her husband to eat with women in public. She began a system of laws that her son developed into constitutional government.

Event 06-06-1889: At Bryn Mawr College - one of the nation's first women's colleges - Emily Greene Balch became the first woman in the United States to be awarded a graduate fellowship. She went on to win the Nobel Peace Prize in 1946.

B. 06-07-1843, Susan Elizabeth Blow, educator, the mother of the kindergarten system in the US public schools.

B. 06-08-1816, Mary Lucinda Bonney, developed plan to allot land to individual Indians rather than to just tribes.

Event 06-09-1949, Georgia Neese Clark was confirmed as the first woman to serve as Treasurer of the United Stares.

B. 06-10-1922, Rose Mofford, Arizona Governor.

B. 06-11-1815, Julia Margaret Cameron, English photographer who developed close-ups, dramatic lighting, and soft focus.

B. 06-12-1930, Barbara Harris, the first woman bishop of the Episcopel Church.

B. 06-13-1881, Lois Weber, actress, film producer and director. She joined Universal Pictures and established Lois Weber Productions. She made several dozen films, many of them with reform themes. A giant of the early days of film.

B. 06-14-1906, Margaret Bourke-White, first women to be accredited as a war photographer and to fly a combat mission during WW II.

B. 06-15-1887, Malvina Hoffman, received the largest sculptural commision ever given to man (or woman), the 110 life-sized bronze statues at the Hall of Man, Field Museum, Chicago.

B. 06-16-1882, Anne Elizabeth O'Hare McCormick, first woman to win the Pulitizer Prize for Journalism

B. 06-17-1865, Dr. Susan LaFlesche Picotte, a native Amerind under the mentorship of two women graduated at the head of medical her class, practiced medicine primarily with the Omaha tribe though she treated almost as many whites as Indians.

B. 06-18-1913, Sylvia Porter, first wrote under initials because men at that time would not pay attention to a woman financial writer.

Event 06-19-1986: The *New York Times* announces that the honorific *Ms.* has " passed sufficiently into the language to be accepted as common usage." It has since recinded the decision and returned to Miss and Mrs., while continuing to address ALL men Mr., regardless of their marital state.

B. 06-20-1905, Lillian Hellman, American playwright and author. She rocked the McCarthy hearings by defiantly stating: "I cannot and will not cut my conscience to fit this year's fashions."

B. 06-21-1931, Marget M. Heckler, Republican Representative to Congress from Massachusetts, 1967-83, US Secretary of Health and Human Services 1983-85, and US Ambassador to Ireland. She is the model on which Doonesbury's Rep. Lacey is patterned.

B. 06-22-1933, Dianne Feinstein, US Senator from California.

B. 06-23-1940, Wilma Rudolph, track athlete, first American woman to win three gold medals in the Olympics.

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Summer Fruit

by T.L.C.

Sweet, sweet peaches
The scent of warm strawberries and
the taste of honey and cream
Flesh soft and tender
A rose cannot compare
Beautiful face framed
by silky soft hair
I held a dream
I kissed a dream --
Liquid sunlight in the palm of my hand
From tender sleep a soft sigh
My heart beats faster with
a brush of your silky thigh
I awake to thoughts of
summer; Fruit and heat,
tender, hot, lovely and sweet
Wondering, thinking of you
My sweet summer dream
Hoping and longing, Will we
ever again meet?
I long to dwell in
your warm places, where
breath sends chills -
your taste leaves me drunk
like champagne. Will we
sweet fruit, Will we ever.
meet again?

I AM...

by Artemis

HOW WOULD I FIND OUT WHO I AM?

IF I AM IS WHAT I LOVE...

I LOVE FLESH HUMAN, ANIMAL, PLANT, AND EARTH.
I LOVE TO TOUCH AND BE TOUCHED
TO CREATE AND CRAFT
TO PLEASE AND PLEASURE
TO DISCOVER AND DISCUSS
TO LAUGH AND SILLYNESS
I LOVE PEACE, PERSPECTIVE AND PEOPLE.

I AM A WOMAN FIRST
A MEMBER OF A COMMUNITY
OF A NATION
OF A WORLD.
I AM A COMPANION AND LOVER
I AM A VESSEL FOR SPIRIT AND FOR LIFE.

When We are Old

by.K

We'll live in the same old folks home. You with your cane, me in my chair. You'll be there telling me to keep my hands off the nieces, and I'll have to remind you where you've left your glasses. There will be long naps together. Sitting on the patio we'll laugh for hours as we plan ways to liven up the place. We'll have all the staff watching us because you'll keep going through everyone's underwear drawers while I'll keep undressing wherever the mood strikes me.
I'll invite the other little old ladies into our room to see my yony while you're out getting your hair dyed that lovely shade of pink we like so well.

What a pair we will be, we won't have to find time to be together. Our hours will be full of each others candor. We won't have to live up to anyone's expectations anymore. We'll be free to endulge ourselves in our curious ways and they'll all say "Yes, but they are the quietest little old couple" and we will have spent a lifetime in love.

Sex without love

by Sharon Olds

How do they do it, the ones who make love
without love? Beautiful as dancers,
gliding over each other like ice-skaters
over the ice, fingers hooked
inside each other's bodies, faces
red as steak, wine, wet as the
children at birth whose mothers are going to
give them away. How do they come to the
come to the come to the God come to the
still waters, and not love
the one who came there with them, light
rising slowly as steam off their joined
skin? These are the true religious,
the purists, the pros, the ones who will not
accept a false Messiah, love the
priest instead of the god. They do not
mistake the lover for their own pleasure,
they are like great runners: they know they are
alone
with the road surface, the cold, the wind,
the fit of their shoes, their over-all cardio-
vascular health - just factors, like the partner
in the bed, and not the truth, which is the
single body alone in the universe
against its own best time.

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Event 06-24-1647, Margaret Brent who came to the US in 1638 demanded a voice and vote for herself in the Maryland assembly and was ejected from the meeting. When Leonard Calvert died, she became his acting executrix and became acting governor. As such she presided over the General Assembly. She was ejected again because "it would set a bad example to ye wives of ye colony."

B. 06-25-1945, Carly Simon, singer and composer.

B. 06-26-1902, Antonia Brico, first American to graduate from the Berlin State Academy of Music master class in conducting found the door firmly closed against her in the male-only conducting field.

B. 06-27-1869, Emma Goldman, anarchist who opposed violence. Her EX-HUSBAND's citizenship was nullified in order to cancel hers and she was deported to Russia. American law forfeited a born-American woman's citizenship if she married a foreigner.

B. 06-27-1888, Antoinette Perry directed nearly 30 plays, established the American Theatre Wing in 1947. In her honor as one of the most influential people in the theater the Antoinette Perry Awards to honor the best in American theater were created, known affectionately as the *Tonys*.

B. 06-28-1876, Clara Maass, heroic nurse who donated her life in the yellow fever experiments of 1901, the only person to die during Maj. Walter Reed's experiments.

B. 06-29-1936, Elizabeth Hanford Dole, Secretary of Labor and now head of American Red Cross.

Event 06-30-1927: Phoebe Omlie received the first pilot's license issued to a US woman.

July

Event 07-01-1857: Antioch College, Yellow Springs, Ohio, graduated three women to become the first non-sectarian college to grant women equal degrees with men.

Event 07-02-1979: the Susan B. Anthony $1 coin was introduced. So close to the size of a quarter, it couldn't be used with confidence and was soon withdrawn from circulation.

B. 07-03-1796, Maria Martin, only woman of the three assistants of James Audubon. She did the background work on most of the drawings of *Birds of America* and other plates and may have done some of the birds themselves. She specialized in very realistic and accurate fauna.

Event 07-04-1960: Liza Redfield became the first woman to ever conduct a musical on Broadway. She had conducted regional theater productions for years. Even today, women conductors are rare.

B. 07-05-1879, Wanda Landowska, Polish-born harpsichordist who revived interest in early musical instruments.

B. 07-16-1943, Nikki Giovanni, poet who explores the black and feminist consciousness.

Event 07-17: Nonae Caprotinae, Roman festival honoring an aspect of Juno, Romanchief goddess, the female counterpart of Jupiter.

Executed 07-07-1865, Mary Surratt was hung without a civilial trial because she kept a boarding house in which her son and John Wilkes Booth sometimes met. No proof of her involvement in the assassination of Abraham Lincoln was ever submitted. According to President Andrew Johnson, she "kept the nest that hatched the egg," and that was enough to kill her by an official act of the United States. Her son who later was tried by a civilian court was acquited.

B. 07-08-1867, Kathe (Schmidt) Kollwitz, first woman elected to Prussian Academy of Arts. Artist of great social conscience.

B. 07-09-1901, Barbara Cartland, English author of almost 400 romance novels. She has sold more than 450 million books.

B. 07-10-1875, Mary McLeod Bethune, founder of Bethune-Cookman College, founder of the National Council of Negro Women, served as president of the National Association of Colored Women, and in the National Youth Administration during the administration of Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

Event 07-11-1656: after five weeks of imprisonment to see if they were witches, the first two Quakers - Ann Austin and Mary Fisher - were allowed into Massachusetts Colony. Their books were burned by the local hangman.

B. 07-12-1895, Kirsten Flagstad, Norwegian dramatic and Wagnerian soprano.

Event 07-13-1934: Cora Sterling, holder of a pilots license, is the first woman named as an aerial police officer in Seattle, Washington.

B. 07-14-1862, Florence Bascom, American geologist. Firt woman to receive a Ph.D. degree from any American university (JohnHopkins).

B. 07-15-1793, Almira Hart Lincoln Phelps, a penniless widow with two small children she began teaching to support them and wrote several science textbooks. Her "Botany" went into nine editions selling 275,000 copies.

B. 07-16-1821, Mary Baker Eddy, founder of the Christian Science system of faith.

B. 07-17-1917, Phyllis Diller, comedic actor, writer.

Event 07-18-1984: Geraldine A. Ferraro becomes the first woman nominated for the Vice President of the United States by a major

political party.

Event 07-19-1848: On the day the 19th amendment was approved in 1920, Mrs. Charlotte Woodward, then past 90, was the only person living to remember what happened in Seneca Fall, New York, July 19, 1848: "I do clearly remember the wonderful beauty of the early morning when we dropped all our allotted tasks and climbed intothe family wagon to drive over the rough roads to Seneca Falls. At first we traveled quite alone under the overhanging tree branches and wild vines, but before we had gone many miles we came on other wagonloads of women, bound in the same direction. As we reached different crossroads, we saw wagons coming from every part of the country, and long before we reached Seneca Falls we were a procession ..." (excerpted from Doris Faber's *Petticoat Politics.*) Where they were going? On 07-19-1848, the first **ever** Women's Rights Convention began.

Event 07-20-1848: The Women's Rights Convention adopts its Declaration Of Sentiments which strikes the first blow for women's equality in the US. In a document patterned after the Declaration of Indepence (which did NOT included women's rights) it said in part ..."But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their duty to throw off such government,and to provide new guards for their future security....

"The history of mankind is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations on the part of man toward woman, having in direct object the establishment of an absolute tyranny over her."

... Now in view of this entire disfranchisement of one-half the people of this country, their social and religious degradation — inview of the unjust laws above mentioned, and because women do feel themselves aggrieved, oppressed and fraudulently deprived of their most sacred rights, we insist that they have immediate admission to all the rights and privileges which belong to them as citizens of the United States.

"In entering upon the great work before us, we anticipate no small amount of misconception, misrepresentation, and ridicule; but we shall use every instrumentality without our power to effect our object."

B. 07-20-1936, Barbara A. Mikulski, US Senator, Maryland.

B. 07-21-1858, Maria Cristina II, her regency of Spain from 1885 to 1902 were marked by liberalization and general peace.

B. 07-22-1849, Emma Lazarus, poet and writer whose words are engraved on the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty: "Give me your tired, your poor ... Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free.... "

B. 07-23-1816, Charlotte Saunders Cushman, American classical actress elected to Hall of Fame of Great Americans.

B. 07-24-1898, Amelia Earhart, first woman to fly an airplane across the Atlantic, first woman to receive the Distinguished Flying Cross.

B. 07-25-1920, Rosalind Elsie Franklin, British biophysicist who many say was cheated out of the Nobel prize when her work on DNA was used by James D. Watson and Frank Crick who and received the Nobel. Her death at 38 closed the scandal.

B. 07-26-1956, Dorothy Hamill, gold medal ice skater of the 1976 Olympics and popular professional with the Ice Capades which she bought.

B. 07-27-1949, Maureen McGovern, singer, actress.

B. 07-28-1929, Jacqueline Lee Bouvier Kennedy Onassis.

Event 07-29-1974: Eleven female deacons of the American Episcopal church received holy orders without the full permission of the church. In the 1976 Episcopalian convention, the then total of 14 women priests were officially recognized and in 1977 the first woman priest, Jacqueline Means, was ordained with the full sanction of the church. It would take until 1994 for the parent Church of England to ordain women priests.

B. 07-30-1818, Emily Bronte, English author.

B. 07-31-1860, Mary Morris Vaux Walcott, 400 of her watercolors of wild flowers and descriptions were published as the mithsonian Insitution five-volume North American Wild Flowers.

CALENDAR

For locations, confirmations, or more information, call the appropriate message machine and someone will get back to you (with discretion if requested). For **SBWN** events call **(206)517-7767**. For all other Seattle events, (**BiNet, SBMU, Polyfi, BiOut,** etc.) Call (206)728-4533.

***denotes mulit-gender events. $=not a free event**

Sun. June 2 - SBWN Mtg. 6:30pm. 'Open Rap.'

Mon. June 10 - SBWN Mtg. 6:30pm. 'Orgasms.'

Mon. June 10 - SBMU Mtg. 7pm. "Sexual Toys and Techniques.'

Mon. June 10 - Wed. June 13 - Oregon Bi-Net Social, : Camping at Mt. Rainier. See page 5 for details.

Sun. June 16 - SBWN Mtg. 6:30pm. ' Jealousy: Back to Haunt Us."

Mon. June 241 - SBWN Mtg. 6:30pm. 'Open Rap.'

Sun. June 30 - SEATTLE PRIDE DAY!. Come see us at the park. Potluck to follow.

Mon. July 1 - Input deadline for *North Bi Northwest* June/July Issue: 'Back to school.'

Sat. July 6 - BiNet Mtg. 6:30pm.

Mon. July 8- SBWN Mtg. 6:30pm. 'More than two to a bed.'

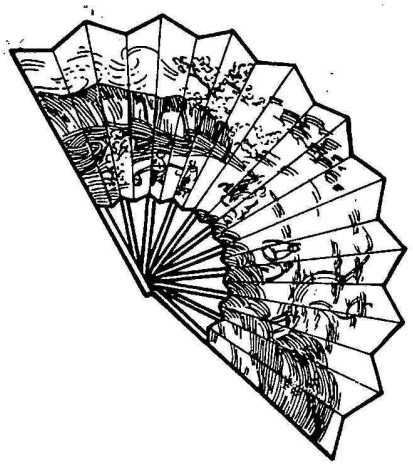
Mon. July 8 - SBMU Mtg. 7pm. 'Bi Relationships.'

Sat. July 13 - Polyfidelity pot-luck 6:30pm, Pilgrim Congregational Church.

Sun. July 14 - SBWN Mtg. 6:30pm. 'Social and Organizational Meeting.'

Mon. July 22 - SBWN Mtg. 6:30pm. 'TBA.'

Sun. July 28 - SBWN Mtg. 6:30pm. 'Open Rap.' North Bi Northwest collating/mailing.



Upcoming SBWN social events:
August- 9th Fri. 8pm. - Luau Party at Regina's.
August 16-18, Fri-Sun - Camping Trip w. Bonnie & Kellie. Location TBA.
August 24, Sat. - Bisexual Conference in Vancouver, B.C.

PEOPLE NEEDN'T BE BISEXUAL TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY OF THE ABOVE GROUPS; ONE NEEDS ONLY TO BE NON-BI-HOSTILE, AND OUGHT TO BE AT LEAST A BIT ENTERTAINING AND FRIENDLY.

Local Groups at your Service

SBWN (Seattle Bisexual Women's Network): Support and discussion groups on alternate Sundays and alternate Mondays at 6:30pm. For more information, call our message machine. Note our NEW telephone number: 517-7767.

SBWN's Social Crowd meets on the first Friday of the month for dancing at Sappho's, 9:30pm. And on the third Saturday of the month for dancing at The Easy, 9:30pm. All are welcome.

SBMU (Seattle Bisexual Men's Union): a men's anti-sexist support and social group with discussion meetings on second Mondays of the m onth at Pilgrim Congregational Church, room 304 (enter from 10th Ave.), and monthly social events (location varies).

Polyfidelity Discussion Group: Support group and community for people in or interested in multipartner relationships. Discussions and literature on responsible nonmonogamy, intimate networks, alternative relationships and community. Bimonthly potluck discussions, 6:30pm @ Pilgrim Congregational Church, 509 10th Ave E, Seattle; alternate month social events, venue varies.

BiNet, the Bisexual Network of Seattle: multi-gender, multicultural profeminist group. Meets the first Saturday of every month Call 728-4533 to get involved.

BiOut Speakers Bureau: available for engagements at schools, businesses, counseling centers, churches, etc. to provide information and answers about bisexuality.